

Story #243 (Tape #7, Summer 1970)

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The Princess Who Became a Prince

[Transcription and translation should be done again. Poor recording plus narrator's speech impediment plus his dentures made this tale all but unintelligible. Tale also had structural gaps and telescoping of incidents, and so it is artistically poor. See Notes for outline of main episodes in tale.]

A padişah had nine daughters, and his wife was pregnant with a tenth child. One day the padişah said to her, "I hope that this time it will not be a girl. If it is, I shall stick her back into your vagina!"

When the tenth child was born, they found it was another girl. The palace midwives and witches made a penis of wax for it and carried the news to the padişah that a son had been born to him. He had the bearers of good tidings rewarded, and after taking their rewards these people left.

When his "son" was seventeen years old, he arranged a wedding for him, but his wife began weeping.

The "son" asked, "Why are you weeping, Mother?"

"We misinformed your father about you," she said. "We told him you were a boy."

The "young man" had the wedding delayed a year or two, but when at last the wedding was held, the "young man," by use of magic, produced a horse which said, "Mount me, young man." "He" mounted and went away, and the wedding was abandoned.

The padişah was very angry with his wife, and scolded her. "See what your son has done," he said.

The "young man" went far, "he" went little, over hills and dales, and

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finally reached another kingdom. This was also a Moslem kingdom. "He" went into the service of the padişah of this land. Now, that land was threatened by a giant who cut off its water supply. It was the padişah's turn to provide something for the giant [i.e., sacrifice himself].

The giant went to the palace when the padişah was asleep. The "young man" saw this, rubbed ^{magically} two hairs together, and a ^{supernatural horse} magic black horse came and said to the "young man," "Do not be afraid."

The giant came, saying, "My kismet was one, but now I see it has been doubled."

The "young man" killed the giant there, and the city water was restored. The padişah awoke in the morning, perfectly well and safe. "Who saved me?" he asked.

They told him it was the "young man."

The padişah asked the "young man," "Wish what you will from me."

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Edh "I wish only your health, your majesty," the "young man" said.

"Wish something else," he said.

"All right. I wish to have your youngest daughter."

The padişah said, "Do not ask for my youngest daughter. Ask for another one." But the "young man" insisted that "he" wanted the youngest daughter. Finally they told the youngest daughter that the "young man" wanted to marry her.

She said, "Beyond those mountains the giants' lightning stone [şinsek] is *Jack* kept. If he can bring it here, I shall marry him." *Jack or sister*

[Ahmet Uysal asked, "Is it lightning stone?"

The narrator answered, "Antique, strange stone."]

"He" went and rubbed the two hairs, and the horse came. The horse said, "If the eyes of the giants are open, go and take the stone. If they are closed, do not go near, or they will kill you."

[Considerable telescoping here]

Well, when "he" went, "he" found that the eyes of the giants were they were asleep. "He" took the stone and returned.

The girl called "him," and this time she said, "Beyond those giants are other giants who have a stone mortar. I want that brought to me. If you bring it, I shall marry you. If not, I shall not."

The "young man" rubbed the two hairs, and the horse came. The horse said, "If their eyes are open, go straight in. If not, do not go." The horse waited behind. [Telescoped--no trip to the place--just there.]

Their eyes were open, so "he" went straight in and took the mortar. But right then, the giants woke up. The horse had warned "him" not to look back. The giants said, "For God's sake, look back."

"He" happened to look back. A giant said, "If you are a boy, you become a girl. If you are a girl, you become a man."

He got on the horse and brought the mortar back to the girl after a long journey. (She learned this magic from the son of the Padişah of Fairies, with whom she was associated. A pigeon used to come through the door, go into the water to bathe, and become a young man.) [Something lost here]

The young man still wanted to marry the youngest daughter. The padişah said, "Son, give up this idea and marry some other daughter."

The young man came to the door and listened. The pigeon entered the water and became a young man.

"What did you want with the mortar stone?" he asked.

"There is a laughing quince and there is a crying pomegranate. If he can bring those, I shall marry him. If not, we shall get rid of him," she said.

"All right," said the young man. He mounted his horse and reached a village from which a felt cap, a skin, and a whip came out of a ruin. They belonged to three brothers unable to divide them among themselves.

trickery

"I shall solve your problem," the young man said. "I shall shoot my arrow and to whoever brings it back I shall give one of these things."

He shot it very far, and, leaving three gold coins in the place of these objects, he left. When the three brothers returned, they were pleased to find three gold coins in place of the objects.

He reached the palace of the Padişah of Fairies, ^{magic object} put on the felt cap, got on the skin, and entered the palace. But he saw that a young man was sitting with the girl he wanted to marry. He sat down with them. Food was brought to the son of the Padişah of Fairies and to the girl. The young man, who had until recently been a girl, also sat down. They were eating pilav. The young man was eating rapidly, and his side of the pilav was falling down, but the others did not see anyone there. (The felt cap made him ^{invisible} invisible.) They ate and drank. The son of the Padişah of Fairies had the girl's handkerchief. He stole that, too. They searched for the handkerchief, but could not find it.

After eating, he went out, but there were many guards placed around the palace to protect the laughing quince and the weeping pomegranate. The young man came and hit the laughing quince and the weeping pomegranate--grabbed them and said goodbye.

Let us come to the son of the Padişah of Fairies and the girl. He said, "You be my sister."

She said, "The pilav kept falling, and I knew he was there, but he is no more skillful than we." *Not fruit but fruit trees*

They planted the two trees in the garden, the quince and the pomegranate. The padişah said to his daughter, "He has brought the laughing quince and the crying pomegranate."

She answered, "But, Father, we know these tricks."

He said, "Our business is over," and he had his son-in-law and his daughter

mount the horse. He said, "Son, what have you got?" [What are you?]

"I was once a girl," he said. "I escaped from my father because he was told I was a son. The giants cursed me, and I became a boy."

"All right, then, son," the padişah said. They put him on a horse [with the girl] and sent them to his father's country, and when his father saw him and the girl, he started a wedding which lasted forty days, and they are still } *wed & celebrate*
playing the drum.

[There is apparently nothing about the girl in his own country he was originally supposed to marry. Did we miss this?]